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in L.A., Chicago, page 8**

CHALLENGE



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OIL WAR HEATS UP

WHILE FREEZING WORKERS' WAGES

A U.S. oil war in Iraq will launch a new period of ruthless struggle for world domination. Oil remains the life-blood of a modern economy. Whoever controls its cheapest supplies will dictate international economics and politics for years to come. Iraq holds the second greatest known reserve of oil and occupies a strategic location in the oil-rich Persian Gulf.

U.S. imperialists intend to remain top dogs for the foreseeable future. European, Russian and Chinese rivals cannot directly challenge them at the moment. However, even a relatively easy U.S. victory in Iraq, which is by no means certain, will set in motion a chain of events leading to wider imperialist wars. Iraq is not an isolated case. The international working class must prepare for a protracted future of armed struggle.

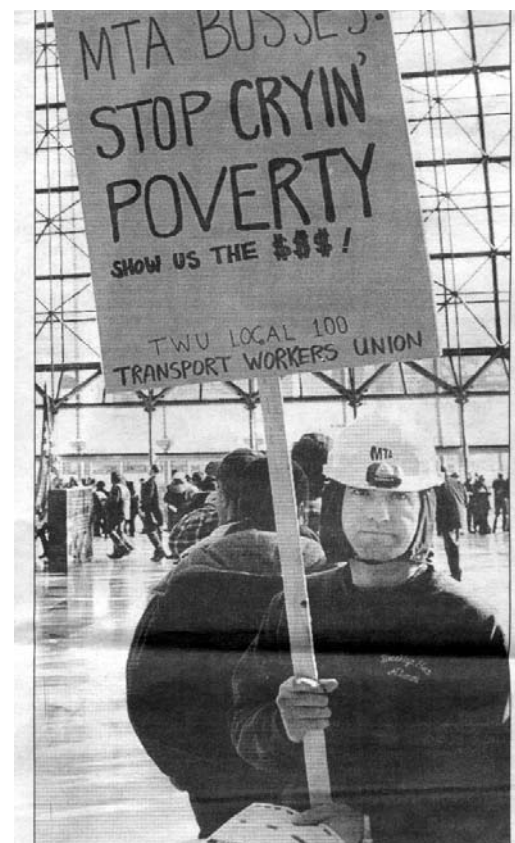
Capitalism always leads to war. Imperialist war has two

aspects. On the one hand, it produces unprecedented death, horror and suffering, as imperialist technology develops new methods of mass murder. On the other hand, it offers our class a great opportunity to build its revolutionary strength in the storm of battle. As communists, we must do everything necessary to build a mass PLP in the midst of imperialist slaughter.

Since the end of the Cold War, U.S. imperialist strategy has been based on preventing the rise of a rival superpower. Recent *CHALLENGE* editorials have discussed how important Iraq is to U.S. bosses in maintaining the upper hand over Russia and the European Union. However, China might offer the most serious long-range threat to U.S. ambitions for world domination. Chinese rulers are not ready to assume this role now, but they are carefully planning

continued on next page

'War on Terror' Hits NYC Transit Rank & File



NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 17 — The rulers' "war on terror" just slammed into 34,000 New York transit workers. The Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 leadership caved in on their demands for a 24% wage increase over three years and an end to the 16,000 harassing disciplinary citations. Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) bosses won a first-year wage freeze and agreed to a measly 3% "increase" in each of the next two years, paid for by workers' increased productivity. The MTA "promised" to reduce the 16,000 disciplinary citations by one-third, leaving over 10,000 in effect.

The ruling class is going all out to force the workers to pay for the capitalist war economy and budget crisis. Strikes that threaten the bosses' "national" or "public interest" and their ability to wage war will be ruled illegal and crushed. Homeland Security fascism will be used to stop strikes in key industries on the "grounds" that they threaten "public safety" or "homeland defense."

NYC Mayor Bloomberg told workers to

follow his "lead" and ride to work on a \$660 bike in the event of a strike. He served his fellow billionaires well, using the state apparatus and the Taylor Law to get an injunction barring a strike. He threatened to fine every worker \$25,000 for the first day of a strike, and double it every day thereafter. He threatened to fine the union a million dollars, also doubling it every day. He "mobilized" the city to use scab buses and blamed transit workers for any potential deaths from emergency vehicles being stuck in traffic.

The MTA hid behind the "billion-dollar deficit." Less than a year ago they were touting a huge *surplus*. Of course, the MTA pays billions to the big banks for past and present debts, before anything is spent for maintenance, new equipment and safety, much less workers' wages and health benefits. This lack of safety protection is what killed two subway workers last month while repairing tracks.

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Liberals Tighten Control As Heads Roll

Heads are rolling as the main, “liberal” wing of U.S. rulers gains tighter control over key positions in and outside government. The Exxon Mobil-Rockefeller wing needs to wrest power from forces that don’t share its outlook, as it intensifies its Mideast oil war and homeland fascism.

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE....

The first blow hit the White House itself. Bush booted his top economic aides, replacing them with John Snow as Treasury Secretary, Stephen Friedman, as head of the National Economic Council and William Donaldson as Securities and Exchange Commission boss.

Snow, chairman of the CSX railroad, wants to stamp out corporate practices like speculation and embezzlement that harm the interests of the bigger bosses. This summer, Snow co-chaired a blue-ribbon commission of the Conference Board on corporate ethics. His partner was Pete Peterson, head of the Rockefeller-led Council on Foreign Relations. The panel helped spur criminal actions against Enron, WorldCom and others.

Friedman belongs to David Rockefeller’s Trilateral Commission and the liberal Brookings Institute, which is fine-tuning Washington’s plans for invading Iraq. In the early ’90s, Friedman co-chaired Goldman Sachs with Robert Rubin, who became Clinton’s Treasury Secretary. Conservative critics call Friedman a “Rubin clone” because, like Rubin, he favors deficit reduction over tax cuts. Clinton and Rubin reduced the deficit through wholesale racist cuts in social programs including welfare and education.

Donaldson, an aristocratic family friend of the Bushes, advised Nelson Rockefeller when he became vice-president. Stephen Moore of the conservative Club for Growth complains that Bush’s new team “comes from this Rockefeller wing of the party” (*U.S. News*, 12/23).

...TO THE SENATE...

In another major shake-up, conservative Republican Trent Lott had his influence severely diminished, although for the time being he hasn’t lost his post as Senate majority leader. The liberal media pounced on Lott’s recent praise of Strom Thurmond’s 1948 presidential candidacy as a segregationist. The *New York Times* and *Washington Post* printed multiple pages hypocritically attacking Lott’s opposition to civil rights. Lott then begged forgiveness on hands and knees from Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, liberal favorites who are hell-bent on committing genocide for oil once more in Iraq.

...TO THE ALTAR

Pressure from liberals, led by the *New York Times*-owned *Boston*

Globe, also forced Cardinal Bernard Law to resign as archbishop of Boston. Law protected many priests who had sexually abused children. But his more grievous sin, in the eyes of the main rulers, lies in his speaking out against U.S. war aims. Law, along with New York’s Cardinal Egan, follows the Vatican, and preaches a pro-European line on the Mideast. The liberals want the Catholic Church in the U.S. to break with the Vatican and to answer mainly to U.S. main wing leaders. Gloating over Law’s ouster, a *New York Times* editorial (12/14) praised Oklahoma governor Frank Keating for leading “church reform.” Since well before 9/11, Keating has played a big role in shaping the rulers’ fascist Homeland Defense schemes.☸

This edition of **CHALLENGE/DESAFIO** is a three week issue. We will return in January. Have a great, fighting New Year in 2003!



Workers Paying For U.S. Imperialists’ Oil War

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for the day when they can.

The best scenario for the Beijing bosses would be for the U.S. to have a relatively long war and a difficult occupation with mounting U.S. casualties. This might lead to further U.S. military involvement in the Persian Gulf and Middle East, and could give them advantages similar to those enjoyed by Japanese and European imperialists during the Vietnam period. In the 1960s and 1970s, while the U.S. was squandering its economic treasure in non-productive military investment, the Japanese and Europeans were developing industries like steel and auto and overtaking the U.S. Similarly, as the U.S. deepens its involvement in new oil wars, China “will try to take advantage of the investment boom it is experiencing” to “make it the prime investment and trade partner for goods otherwise bound for Europe.” This would also allow Chinese rulers to “build up a powerful military.” (*Stratfor*, 12/13)

Under these circumstances, China’s new economic and military might could vie directly with the U.S. for mastery of Persian Gulf oil. A rising China could engage in armed struggle to unseat an

overextended, weakening U.S.

If the U.S. succeeds in overrunning and occupying Iraq with minimal internal resistance and little initial opposition throughout the Gulf’s oil-producing nations, China would find it difficult to quickly free itself of U.S. dominance. If Exxon Mobil, Texaco Chevron, et al. gain a stranglehold over cheap oil supplies, China will be unable to muscle in on the

The sweep of human history will eventually lead to the protracted struggle for power between the profit system and communism.

Persian Gulf-Middle East oil racket and will still need U.S. investment and technology.

But these disadvantages can turn into their opposite. The present gang of capitalist bosses in Beijing has a long-range outlook. A series of U.S. oil

wars will remove China as a target of U.S. aggression while they remain an important market for U.S. companies. A global U.S. war against Arab and Muslim countries will allow China to portray itself as a “friend of the oppressed.” Over the very long haul, even the scenario of initial U.S. victory will intensify the conflict between the U.S. and China.

In contemplating the complex scenarios that may unfold, we shouldn’t make predictions. As the communist philosophy of dialectical materialism teaches us, we should anticipate many potential contingencies. Our primary focus should be on what dialectics calls “necessity,” which means that imperialism always needs war because one imperialist power must try to dominate and others must seek to overthrow and replace it.

This vicious cycle will continue as long as the inter-imperialist rivalry remains the main contradiction in the world. As this period of widening war unfolds, the growth of PLP can accelerate. The sweep of human history will eventually lead to the protracted struggle for power between the profit system and communism. Despite present appearances, we will win.☸

WHAT WE FIGHT FOR:

☸PLP fights to smash capitalism wage slavery. While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim communism is dead, capitalism is the real failure for billions all over the world. The Soviet Union and China returned to capitalism because socialism maintained too many aspects of capitalism, like wages and divisions of labor.

☸Capitalism inevitably leads to wars. PLP organizes workers, students and soldiers to turn these wars into a revolution for communism. This fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat requires a mass Red Army led by the communist PLP.

☸Communism means working collectively to build a society based on need. We will abolish work for wages,

money and profit. Everyone will share society’s benefits and burdens.

☸Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of race.

☸Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women workers.

☸Communism means abolishing nations which leads to nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☸Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers, eventually everyone must become communist organizers.

JOIN US!



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Auto Bosses Drive Police State Attacks on Workers

The U.S. Patriot Act, the super-Gestapo Homeland Security Agency, and the Pentagon's Total Information Awareness plan for a supercomputer to keep an eye on millions, are turning the U.S. into a police state. All of these are supported by almost all Republicans and Democrats in Congress. Many companies and colleges are providing federal agents with private information on their employees and students. This police state is a massive step, but elements of it have existed for many years. (See recent *CHALLENGE* series on legal fascism.)

Union hacks and bosses have often united to attack and fire militant workers, particularly left-wingers. Twenty-five years ago, a PLP airline worker fought and beat an IAM anti-communist clause banning communists from becoming union officials. This clause was born during the height of Cold War McCarthyism, designed to oust the communists who led and helped build many industrial unions.

In 1973, PLP led hundreds of autoworkers in taking over Chrysler's Mack Ave. Stamping plant in Detroit,

protesting safety hazards, speed-up and the firing of a PL member. The UAW leadership organized 1000 paid goons, with baseball bats, to smash the sit-down strike and retake the plant where the cops had failed. The

As worldwide capitalism turns increasingly fascist, and the auto companies' struggle for markets and cheap labor, antiworker attacks will grow.

union and the auto bosses then blacklisted the leaders.

In Argentina, Ford and DaimlerBenz (formerly Mercedes-Benz) both favorites of Hitler, are accused of helping the death squads of the military rulers in the mid-1970s.

An external commission is investigating the role of DaimlerBenz executives in the disappearance of 14 union members from 1975 to 1978 in its González Catán plant. The company claims it "has already held its own

internal inquiries, which found no evidence of wrongdoing." (*BBC World News*, 10/28) It hopes the new commission, formed by a German law professor, will clear its name, the same way it was "cleared" of its com-

plicity with Hitler's war machine.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor Felix Crous is investigating Ford's role in the illegal detention and murder of workers during the same military regime. Former Ford worker Pedro Norberto Troiani testified that a secret military detention center existed inside the Ford factory near Buenos Aires.

Troiani said he was held prisoner for 50 days, and was one of 25 workers "detained" at the plant in the 1970s. (*BBC*, 11/6) On March 24, 1976, the

day of the military coup, army troops entered the plant and workers began to disappear immediately. Right wing SMATA union leaders helped the company and the military finger militant and left wing workers.

Ford has repeated this elsewhere. In Britain, the Dargham Ford plant bosses worked with Special Branch (a police spy agency) and right-wing union leaders to fire and blacklist militant and left wing workers. In January 1992, Ford used armed goons to attack strikers in its Cuautitlan, Mexico plant, killing one.

Ford and DaimlerBenz represent the world's big bosses and it's doubtful much will come of these investigations. As worldwide capitalism turns increasingly fascist, and the auto companies' struggle for markets and cheap labor, antiworker attacks will grow. From Buenos Aires to London to Cuautitlán to Detroit, workers can confront fascism by building an international communist PLP while fighting the bosses and their union lieutenants and the local Gestapo.☸

Nationalism Undercuts Fight vs. Mexico's Anti-Labor Onslaught

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 14 — On Dec. 12, for the second time in a week, rebellious teachers united with peasant organizations surrounding and storming Parliament demanding more government money for education and protection from NAFTA for small farmers. Earlier, the protestors had been able to enter the chambers to confront the politicians but were ousted by anti-riot cops. This time the cops barred their entrance.

These actions are part of mass mobilizations by the CNTE (a dissident group in the National Teachers' Union) demanding more money for education, opposing anti-worker changes in the labor law, and privatization of public schools, as well as more funds for education. They also wanted Elba Esther Gordillo, former union leader and PRI hack (the former ruling Party), tried for the murder of dissident teachers when she led the union.

After the Dec. 12 protest, legislators from the opposition liberal Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) met with the dissident teachers and agreed to support a law providing more money for education. The CNTE leadership then agreed to withdraw "demands to further raise education funding to equal 12% of [Mexico's] gross domestic product." (*TheNews-Mexico.Com*, 12/13).

President Fox is trying to make workers pay even more for the crisis of capitalism, cutting social services and privatizing others. Eventually the government wants to privatize Pemex,

the state-owned oil company.

Changes in the labor law are crucial to these privatizations. The government wants to impose 10-hour workdays, hourly pay instead of regular wages, and an end to seniority rights.

But while these militant teachers led the fight against such attacks, CNTE's proposed "new nation project" is no real answer. Such nationalist plans only help one group of bosses against another. No wonder Mexico's richest boss, Carlos Slim, is demanding Fox revive the country's internal market to favor local bosses. This billionaire may wind up running for president as the PRD candidate.

PLP teachers join the fight of the militant teachers and all workers opposing privatization, which intensifies unemployment and misery for our class, but we also show that capitalism in all its forms (state, private, mixed) is based on the exploitation of workers. During these days of imperialist oil wars and worldwide capitalist crisis, attacks against workers will grow no matter who's President and what form capitalism takes or which imperialist bloc (U.S. or European) he/she favors.

The only way out for all teachers and workers is to break with nationalism and fight for a society without bosses, where production and education serve the interests of the entire working class. That's communism, the goal of PLP. Join us!☸

Oil Behind Coup Attempts in Venezuela

CARACAS, VENEZUELA,

Dec. 18 — The "general strike" against the government of Hugo Chavez is really a lockout by a section of the old ruling class seeking the profits from — and control of — the huge state-owned oil company PDVSA, one of the world's largest. It owns CITGO, the biggest gasoline station owner in the U.S.

The anti-Chavez forces are a united front of union hacks, Fedecamaras (the bosses' chamber of commerce), PDVSA executives and bureaucrats, and other military and civilian right-wingers. They're backed by elements in the Bush administration, who use this gang as a brake on Chavez's allying with anti-U.S. forces and to insure continued oil exports to the U.S. (PDVSA now provides 14% of all oil used in the U.S.) This is particularly important for U.S. imperialism as it gears up for war against Iraq.

But, the anti-Chavez forces want it all. The lockout that began on Dec. 2 — although having failed to provoke a military coup against Chavez — has disrupted PDVSA oil production, increasing the world market price of oil.

Most workers, particularly in the working class urban areas, oppose the putschists. Even middle-class support has declined since the one-day coup in April. That's when Pedro Carmona, head of one of the biggest private conglomerates, became President and tried to impose a Pinochet-like repression, scaring even many of his own supporters. Then in October, the putschists tried again, but masses of workers and youth stopped



them. Now they're trying again.

With each attempted coup, the Chavez government compromises more and more with U.S. imperialism's demands (guaranteeing oil supplies and opening new rich gas deposits to U.S. companies). The masses of workers and youth (part of the Bolivarian Circles), fighting the right-wingers in the streets, don't want to return to the corrupt era of the old rulers, who stole tens of billions from the oil bonanza while impoverishing millions. But these workers and youth err in thinking Chavez is the answer. They should direct their militancy towards organizing a mass communist movement to fight for the only solution for workers: a communist society where the wealth they produce is shared according to need.☸

Chicago Teachers Getting Education on Oil War

CHICAGO. IL, Dec. 16 — Early this month, Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) delegates held a lively debate over a resolution titled, “Say No to War in Iraq.” Teachers listened thoughtfully as a delegate in PLP explained that although the U.S. only gets 25% of its oil from the Middle East, it’s control of oil profits that’s at stake. This will be an imperialist war to seize resources and labor. Another delegate noted the death and destruction the Iraqi people will face, on top of what they’ve already suffered as a result of Dessert Storm, sanctions and continued bombing. Several delegates said the billions spent for war would mean even less money for education. The “No Child Left Behind Act” requires that schools give the military information about our students.

These young people are the ones who will have to fight and die to protect oil company profits.

Delegates opposed to the resolution introduced a substitute motion calling on Bush to exhaust peaceful means and work with the UN. This resolution ultimately won, 202-136. However, many delegates were moved by the discussion during and before the meeting. Originally, some of those opposed to the anti-war resolution argued Bush’s position in favor of war. Others argued this was not the union’s business. However, by the time the resolution came up in the meeting, those against it presented the substitute rather than directly oppose it.

A number of teachers have begun

to meet as “Teachers Against War.” They organized discussions about the anti-war resolution, passed out fliers at the CTU meetings, and gathered 70 signatures on petitions calling for the CTU to take a position against war in Iraq. Now the group is organizing a busload for the January 18 protests in Washington.

Within this group, there’s been a struggle over the best way to build an anti-war movement, including the content of the resolution to present to the union. Some felt passing an anti-war resolution was vital and therefore wanted to emphasize the money that wars take from education. Others, including a PLP member, argued we must counter the rulers’ lies about the war on terrorism and explain that the rulers need to control the Middle East

because oil is the life-blood of capitalism.

After the union meeting, several delegates approached the PLP speaker and complemented her presentation. One said, “Even *I* was almost convinced by what you said.” This shows that we must win the working class to see the big picture and not just put forward ideas most already agree with. The struggle continues.☺



400 At Antiwar Conference Need to Confront Pacifism and Patriotism

Eight months of organizing and mobilizing – in which PLP members participated — led to an anti-war call-to-action conference of almost 400 people from different communities, about double the amount expected. This is mainly an advance in potential since there are many more in our region who work in their groups against racist Homeland Security and the coming war on Iraq.

The work of one comrade took some important steps forward. All but two of our regular *CHALLENGE* readers attended. The week before we met to prepare brief statements for the workshops, describing personal experiences about survival in a brutally racist society, geared to perpetual war. Each soup kitchen volunteer gave his or her talk for a very supportive audience at our church to evaluate. It was one of the most moving experiences I’ve had in over 30 years of activism. When one volunteer spoke in my conference workshop about her daughter who’d joined the army on Sept. 10, 2001 because she couldn’t afford college tuition, there were many seconds of silence afterward with understanding and appreciation.

However, our most advanced new comrade didn’t attend; she was depressed about receiving a 10-day back-rent-due notice. We must struggle with her to develop an offensive political response to oppression rather than an individualist, defeatist one.

As one would expect, the main speakers — while presenting much information — didn’t explain the essence of imperialism and generally re-enforced the participants’ illusions about the effectiveness of pacifist organizing and the basic “goodness” of the U.S. political system, as expressed through patriotism. These ideas were debated in various workshops. Comrades and others offered their ideas. The ideological contradictions present at the conference exist in all of society.

As comrades talk to our friends in the

post-conference period we are following up on the many opportunities for ideological struggle. One comrade has written an article exposing patriotism for debate in his local group’s newsletter. Even if they don’t print it, he will still show it to 10 potential *CHALLENGE* readers to introduce the paper to them. Another comrade has invited four new friends, who helped organize the conference, to join a Party-led study group. Ideological contradictions more sharply etched since the conference, will be discussed in the study group, linked to imperialism, fascism and capitalist political economy.

The conference’s ideological weaknesses, widely evident in the current anti-war movement — pacifism, patriotism and opportunism — would leave many honest people prey to the next McGovern-type misleader the rulers throw our way. The patriotism of some conference participants stems from the unspoken resignation that “communism has failed.” Since “this is the only system we’ve got,” it must be fixed.

This presents us in PLP with both danger and opportunity. We must sharpen the level of struggle with our friends and greatly widen distribution of *CHALLENGE-DESAFIO*. As we deepen our involvement and leadership in the mass movement, this ideological struggle will be intense, long-range and multi-faceted. Ultimately the most important aspect will be the struggle to learn from the history of the communist movement, its strengths and weaknesses, and recover confidence in the principles of communism, based on an understanding of dialectical materialism. The Party’s participation in this conference has opened the door a little more to this struggle.

PLP members measure the success of our work in mass organizations in various ways, including: whether we have speakers who can present our ideas to a large

Immigrants Poverty Wages Basis For Clinton s Boom Decade

A new study by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University concludes that recent immigrants accounted for half of the new workers who joined the labor force in the past decade, and were critical to U.S. economic growth. According to the report, 8 of 10 new male workers were immigrants who arrived during that time, and that immigration is transforming entire industries.

About 13.5 million immigrants came to the U.S. between 1990 and 2001, including 368,000 people born in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other U.S. island territories. During this time there were 16 million new workers. About 8 million were immigrants, who were used by the bosses to drive down the wages of the lowest-paid U.S.-born workers. About half of the new immigrants are without legal papers, meaning that Clinton’s economic boom was based in large part on the racist super-exploitation of undocumented workers.

Andrew Sum, director of the center, said that the U.S. economy would have stumbled without the new immigrants, who contributed more in taxes than they used in services. He said, “Our economy has become more dependent on immigrant labor than at any time in the last 100 years.”

According to the Census Bureau, two million immigrants have arrived in the U.S. since the 2000 Census. In the 1970s, immigrants accounted for 10% of new workers. It increased to 25% in the ’80s and 50% in the ’90s. Still, immigrants make up only 14% of the total workforce.

The director of the workforce education initiative at the Business Roundtable (a group of corporate executives) said, “We would not have been able to have this economic growth without the growth in the workforce that was supplied by immigrants.” And their impact was felt throughout the economy, from manufacturing and service industries to engineering, computer science and physical science. Nine in 10 new immigrants went to work for private industry. More than one-third were blue-collar workers, while one in four held technical, managerial or professional jobs.

Without new immigrants, the labor force would have experienced no growth in New England and the New York region. Immigrants accounted for all the growth among workers under 35 and one-third of the growth in the labor force among the ages 35 to 44.

The effect was particularly noticeable among male workers, in part because of a decline in the percentage of U.S.-born men in the workforce. One factor is early retirements; another is mass racist unemployment among black and Latin males who were failed by the rotten school system and dropped out of high school. Among women, three in 10 new workers were recent immigrants while U.S.-born women continue to enter the workforce in larger numbers. Immigrants will keep coming. The bosses need them to create super-profits while they intensify fascist attacks against them and the rest of the working class. We must wage a tremendous struggle against the racist anti-immigrant ideology on the job, in the unions and the schools. We welcome the workers of the world onto our jobs and into our revolutionary communist party. In their thirst for profits, the bosses will help us to break down nationalist barriers. They will create their own gravediggers. Workers of the World, Unite!☺

WORKERS OF THE WORLD WRITE!

"Within the anti-war movement an array of opportunists are working hard to lead angry and impassioned activists into the arms of one section or another of the capitalist class. We need to be there, presenting the revolutionary potential of the working class to destroy global capitalism and its bloody wars for profit."

A Reader

Who Are Our Allies In Fight Against Bosses Wars?

Recently, a friend, a community organizer suggested an idea: "Since the U.S. government isn't paying any attention to us, let's try the French government. In the U.N. Security Council they've been opposing U.S. plans to invade Iraq. We can start a campaign for people to send them letters and e-mails urging them to keep it up!" Some U.S. peace activists have already sent flowers to the French ambassador to the U.N.

I replied, "But the French government is just as imperialist as the U.S. They want Elf-Total-Fina, not Exxon-Mobil, to control Iraqi oil. If the U.S. cuts them in on the oil profits, they'll support the war." My friend admitted I was probably right, but was disappointed. "So what can we do?" he asked. I gave him the short answer — rely on the working class! Deeper discussion is coming.

My study group read a Canadian author's proposal in *Monthly Review* to use the electoral process to get other "democratic" countries to oppose the U.S. "war against terrorism." This is the same "lesser-evil" anti-fascist strategy that the Communist International mistakenly adopted in the 1930s and 1940s — but with the roles of U.S. and Germany reversed.

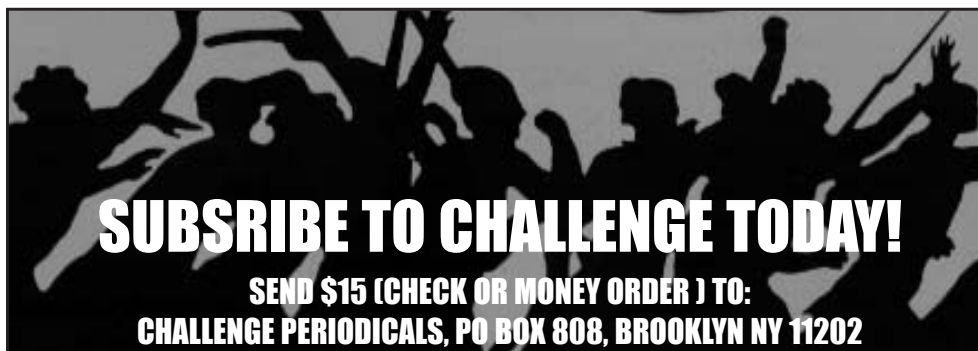
The "united front from above" undercut revolutionary class-consciousness and built trust in "good" capitalists like Roosevelt and Churchill. When the dust settled, workers who fought to "defend socialism" or "save democracy" saw their U.S. imperialist "allies" launch the Cold War and institute brutal puppet regimes from Vietnam to Iran to Guatemala. Meanwhile, Soviet socialism was so undermined by concessions to nationalism and capitalism that it turned into its opposite.

Imperialist alliances against the U.S., as proposed by the *Monthly Review* author, will only lead to wider war in the future. Fascism and imperialism are inevitable under capitalism. Only communist revolution can end that. I'll take this discussion to my activist friend.

During a recent anti-war march, a woman told me, "We need to reach out to people with different core values than ours, like all those who support Pat Buchanan. Those isolationist right-wingers are coming out very strongly against an Iraq war." I responded, "If our core values relate to justice and opposing unjust wars, then a lot of people share them. We need to go to the working class, not to Buchanan." She wasn't convinced. "But we need all the support we can get," she said, "no matter where it comes from."

I told her, "I came here with some church people and have some deep philosophical disagreements with them. But there are limits. If you put a racist like Pat Buchanan up as an 'anti-war leader,' how can you fight against attacks on immigrants and all workers, which are part of the war drive? We need to build an anti-war movement that fights racism, not caters to it." She still wasn't convinced.

Who are our friends and who are our enemies? The communist movement



has made mistakes, but we learn from them. Within the anti-war movement an array of opportunists are working hard to lead angry and impassioned activists into the arms of one section or another of the capitalist class. We need to be there, presenting the revolutionary potential of the working class to destroy global capitalism and its bloody wars for profit.

A Reader

Navy Invades HS: Leave No Child Unexploited

At my high school we are fighting two attacks growing out of two provisions in the new "No Child Left Behind" law, both reflecting the U.S. ruling class's increasing embrace of fascism. The law aims to facilitate military recruiting and drastically slash public education.

Firstly the military can demand all student files, including home addresses and telephone numbers, all without the knowledge of parents or students, and the schools must comply. Some students from my school and from an "outreach" program attached to the school, had their personal information sent to the military. (Students in danger of failing high school can have an "outreach" option — with its more flexible scheduling — to work towards a diploma.)

Students and parents were outraged at this military invasion of their files and organized to protest the action, including contacting their churches and community organizations.

The rulers' reaction to this opposition appeared in the form of a local newspaper article citing a letter from a high-ranking Navy recruiter in the area. He said the students from these two schools "were unfit to serve their country," since some students had failed the Navy's written exam given to new recruits. Many youth see the military as a way out of racist unemployment, poverty and police terror. The letter basically dismissed the students as too stupid to join the armed forces.

When I read the article to my classes, many students were angered at this disrespect. One exclaimed, "We're not too stupid, we're too smart to fight and die in their wars. If Bush's kids don't have to go, why should I?" Many agreed with these remarks. The bottom line is the rulers know they will need a draft to build the military needed for their imperialist aims.

The other provision of the law mandates closure or "re-organization" of any school with a failing record on standardized tests. By law, the mayor can close any school, for any reason, whenever he chooses. My school's scores make it a "failing" one. It's slated to be phased out starting next September. Should the district administration not adhere to

this law, it could lose its state funding.

This rule will disrupt many schools. It will allow corporations to enter school systems, moving them toward privatization. Many of the new "mini schools" have corporate "partners" such as the Carnegie Foundation and Bill Gates. The rulers hope these schemes will divert funds now allotted to public education into paying for wars for world domination.

I have joined with a few teachers to fight this disruptive re-organization and the military invasion of our school. While some feel the school just needs more money, I pointed out that no matter what changes the schools make or don't make, the rulers' only concern about the lives of working-class students is how much they can be exploited.

Our meetings and discussions motivated us to fight for the best interests of our students. But even more important, it led us to question whether the system is really interested in doing the same.

Our group is reaching out to the community to organize parents and students, along with teachers, to struggle over this issue and others that will surely arise.

This fascistic law will lead to further attacks on workers and their families. Rather than "leaving no child behind," the rulers' real intention is to leave no child unexploited.

H.S. Teacher

Thanks-For-Fighting-Racism Feast

Great food, friends, co-workers, comrades, communist political discussion—what a mix of 60 fighters! The Thanks-For-Fighting-Racism-Feast — initiated 18 years ago by the international Committee Against Racism —celebrated once again as an alternative to the bosses' Thanksgiving (which marked the genocide of Native Americans). It was co-hosted by the Amnesty International chapter of Howard University and the People's Coalition for Police Accountability based in Prince George's County, Maryland. Workers students and

neighbors joined together to review and continue the anti-racist actions of the past year.

The first speaker schooled us on thanksgiving history, the genocide of Indians first by the Pilgrims and later by the U.S. government.

A trio of Howard University students related their struggles against the death penalty; the curtailment of privacy rights and the detention of hundreds of foreign-born workers under the Patriot Act; and their focus on the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

Another speaker recounted the August demonstration against the National Alliance, a neo-Nazi group. He said 1000 cops included snipers above Union Station pointing their guns at us and defending the Nazis!

A trade unionist reported on resolutions against a war in Iraq that have passed in several area unions.

A member of the People's Coalition described being caught up in the election campaign for Prince Georges county executive. He realized afterwards that with all the energy expended there was no clear guarantee the person elected, Jack Johnson, will substantively change the brutal racist culture of the County Police force. Johnson definitely will not heed the Coalition's call to fire the "Dirty Dozen" cops, one of whom has just shot another young black man.

A member of the American Public Health Association (APHA) reported the struggle at its meetings that forced Tom Ridge, Homeland Security czar, to withdraw from his scheduled appearance at the opening session under the onslaught of red-led opposition. Mohamed Ackter, the opportunistic APHA leader, felt compelled to give an antiwar speech amid passage of a resolution opposing the war in Iraq.

The next speaker praised the workers and students attending for their participation in anti-racist struggle, noting that our collective power can bear fruit only when capitalism is destroyed and a communist society built. The young people were congratulated and recognized as representing the future. Joining the Progressive Labor Party was advanced as the most important thing anyone could do in the coming period of fascist repression and imperialist war.

A "50-50" raffle was held to support the Anti-Fascist Defense Fund that aids workers and students arrested in the fight against racism and fascism. Over \$250 was collected. The winner returned her half of the money to the Fund. Now, on with the anti-racist struggle!

A D.C. comrade

COMMUNIST LITERATURE

Nuclear Spring A novella and short stories. Envisions a communist future growing out of WWII.

Comrades In 1975 in Boston, the racist and anti-busing movement turned violent.

The antiracist reaction to these events is part of the history of our class. The personal struggle to improve our lives now is drawn in these pages.

To Have in Common A novel about a hospital strike in which workers run the hospital; nine stories about people in ordinary circumstances developing communist values.

All books are 8.50 plus \$1.50 shipping. Send check or money to Challenge Periodicals, GPO 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

MLA Members: Fight Capitalist Ideas Engulfing Academia

As the Modern Language Association (MLA) meets this year, we face crises in academia, in the U.S. and the world: cutbacks, war, fascist-like repression, increasing racism.

In a capitalist-imperialist system, academia performs a "skills" function, training a few experts and a literate workforce. But its ideological function is primary: teaching that exploitation, capitalism and imperialism are justified; teaching anti-communism and racism (usually in a nationalist form); promoting ideologies that rationalize injustice.

Academia is also a site of super-exploitation of part-time, graduate and teaching-assistant labor: a decline in full-time jobs; cutbacks; tuition increases. Jobs and services are "privatized," so some boss profits. Research is given away to profit-making companies.

IMPERIALIST WAR

The so-called "war on terrorism" is the cover for U.S. rulers' drive to control Middle-East oil and gain a chokehold on their imperialist rivals — Western Europe, Russia, China and Japan. It will kill U.S. soldiers and millions more worldwide.

It's also a war on workers and

many of us here. The NYC transit workers' contract fight reminds us that the USA is the only industrial country in which public employees have no right to strike. So much for workers' "civil liberties."

CAPITALISM THE ENEMY; COMMUNISM THE ONLY SOLUTION

Many of us in academia understand that capitalism is the root of all these problems. What's preventing its replacement with a communist society?

- The demonizing of the old communist movement by anti-communist lies, from Trotsky to Khrushchev to the Cold War academics, making communism seem "worse than capitalism."

- Promoting racism at home — cutbacks, double unemployment rates, shorter lives, poorer conditions and police terror for black and Latin workers — leads to the acceptance of imperialist racism against workers in Iraq, Palestine, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere.

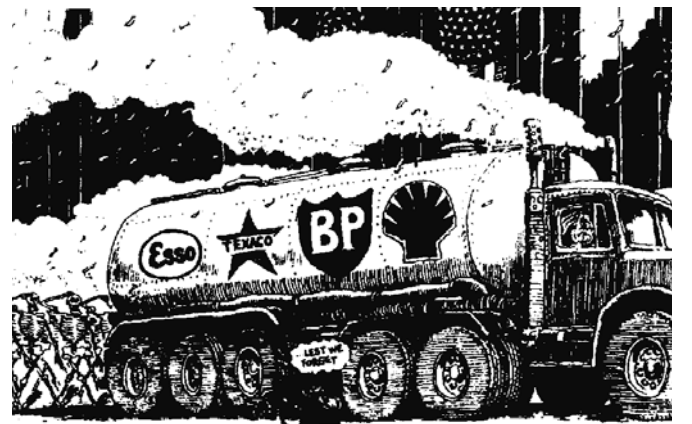
- The "liberal arts" teach capitalist ideology, making capitalism seem "less bad," dividing intellec-

tuals from working people, and employing apologists for inequality, exploitation and racism, often with a "liberal" veneer.

WHAT TO DO

We in Progressive Labor Party (PLP) applaud those within the MLA — including initiatives of the Radical Caucus and Graduate Student Caucus — who expose and oppose racism, exploitation and capitalism. But the primary purpose of the "humanities" is to prettify, rationalize or apologize for capitalist relations of exploitation. With the advent of fascism and imperialist war, these trends will also grow much stronger in the MLA.

The old communist movement made many errors but also had striking successes. We're learning from both, to build a revolutionary movement for a communist society in which the profit system that spawns racism, sexism and exploitation will be abolished. The free, full development of every individual can be real-



ized only in such a society.

We urge you to join PLP in this task, the most important on earth, of creating this new world.

As teachers, we can fight racist, elitist, sexist and deterministic ideologies in our classes and research. We can join workers' struggles. Fighting racism at every step is essential.

In the MLA, we can support anti-racist initiatives. We can, and must, work to condemn imperialist wars and encroaching fascist repression, winning ourselves and others to do this more effectively. Contact PLP at plp@plp.org. ☺

Profits Choke Off Fresh Water For Billions

A *New York Times* series (8/25-28) described the worldwide crisis surrounding the supply of fresh water for human use in the Middle East, Argentina, China and the U.S.

The overall shortage of fresh water for the world's drinking and agricultural needs will worsen, due to global warming and to growing populations. The U.N. and the U.S. government estimate that by 2015 at least 40% of the world's people (3 billion) will suffer from insufficient water. The writers did a nice job of depicting the crisis but left the solution up to faith, hope and charity.

However, it's not difficult to see from their account of this crisis the impossibility of its solution in a world in which *profit* determines the actions of the world's biggest organizations — large corporations and capitalist governments. One can also see that the only possibility of solving the crisis lies in a world in which *human needs* determine the actions of the largest organizations — the working class and its future state power. Such a solution will, of course, require working-class revolution.

In the Middle East, the Euphrates River flows from Turkey through Syria and Iraq into the Persian Gulf. The yearly needs of water in these three countries total 50% more than the volume of water flowing in the river. These countries cannot agree on how to share this water since the upstream country, Turkey, controls how much water arrives in Syria and Iraq simply by building dams. Given a competitive system, the Turkish government logically fears there is no security for the future if it agrees to deliver more of the water downstream. Eventually this could provoke a war as the only way Syria and Iraq could obtain enough water. This competitive situation among nation states applies

to almost 300 rivers in the world.

In Argentina the government has allowed two giant French companies, Vivendi Environment and Suez, to control the water for several provinces. The government funds the building of pipes, purification plants and other equipment, while the companies reap the profit through high prices that make it impossible for many workers to get clean water. When anyone objects, the companies threaten to leave those areas. Some regions are more profitable than others; some actually cost the companies more than they take in so they simply close up shop in those unprofitable spots.

Whether profit-making companies or capitalist-run governments control the water supply, the working class loses — either through lack of access to water, or lack of money to pay for it. In a world in which the needs of the working class determined what was produced and where resources were distributed, there would be no need for nation states and their resulting competition. Plans for dams, distribution systems and purification plants would be made based on need. Clean water would be free to everyone so price would be irrelevant. If some areas were more difficult to supply — the kind that would be losing propositions for profit-makers, the places easier to supply would subsidize them. There would be no need to "close up shop." Such a world would have to be run by the working class.

Profit is the cause of the water shortage, and water shortages cause disease, starvation and millions of deaths. Capitalism is the scourge of the world's working class. And you can read the basis for this conclusion in the *New York Times* — minus the conclusion, of course. ☺

Now These Students Have Become Teachers

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD. Dec. 13 - As buses rolled up to Northwestern High School this morning, students were greeted by classmates with posters and homemade T-shirts protesting military recruiters and Bush's plans for war against Iraq. Within minutes, 60 students were chanting and picketing, "Bush and Saddam are the Same, The only difference is in the Name!" and "1-2-3-4, We don't want your racist war." As they marched into the school they echoed the 1960's chant, "Hell No, We Won't Go" with a new century beat: "Ain't no power like the power of people, 'cause the power of people don't stop! SAY WHAT?!"

Junior ROTC members and their uniformed troop leaders watched while one military leader had a sharp confrontation with a student before the rally started. The student argued that the war was for oil, not against terrorism, saying the army promises opportunity but doesn't deliver and now war can mean that young soldiers die. She said money should go for schools, not war.

After joining anti war protests this fall, the students organized this protest in 24 hours. It included black, Latino and white students at this public high school. After the protest the principal and multiple administrators, including a visiting Board of Education member, met with 12 students in a conference room and then allowed them to go to class.

The rally was the talk of the school. Many teachers and students congratulated the protesters and wanted to know when the next one would be and what the punishment had been. Not all were supportive. One teacher, an ex-marine, harangued his class about disrespecting the military. The Student Government Association sponsor was visibly pissed off. The administrators claimed they knew we were planning this for two weeks and tried to find out who had helped us organize it. They seemed confused when we said we did it ourselves overnight.

We learned that our fellow students are interested in more than clothes and video games. We were glad to have the support, but now we must follow up with the students who came and talk more about the rally's ideas and about politics generally. The administration will watch us more closely now and probably try to scare us. The school's chapter of Amnesty International is sponsoring a debate on the war next week which we'll attend and prepare for.

The political training some of us have had in Progressive Labor Party, Amnesty International and other groups enabled us to know it could be done and done quickly. May Day marches, anti-war protests in downtown D.C., and demonstrations against police brutality in Prince George's County prepared us with tactics and ideas. We now hope to lead our generation in political struggle against capitalism and imperialism. Teaching about the brighter future communist revolution can hold is our next big step. This event encourages us to push on. ☺

Bratton's LAPD — MURDER INC.

LOS ANGELES, CA, Dec. 17 — Last week, the teachers union here passed the following resolution from its Human Rights Committee: "The UTLA [United Teachers of Los Angeles] House of Representatives authorize our President to draft a letter to Mayor Hahn and Police Chief Bratton in the interest of the future of our youth, urging them to discourage gang activity by addressing its root causes. We ask for a war on racism, a war on poverty, and a war on over-crowded and under-funded schools. Rationale: We should take a stand on the underlying issues of events like the recent deaths of two well-respected High School students at the hands of the LAPD."

In speaking for it, a teacher was applauded when declaring, "This morning [Dec. 4] the front page of the LA Times had a large headline stating that Hahn and Bratton are declaring 'war on gangs.' In a tiny

headline at the bottom of the page, Governor Davis plans to cut \$1.9 billion to schools in California...I knew I had to ask this body to take a stand.

Bratton has declared "...a war on black and Latin youth, a violent version of racial profiling with a community policing twist to try to win leaders of churches and community groups to see our youth as the enemy....[We need] a real war on poverty and racism, not...on the youth....Instead of seeing our youth as the enemy,... teachers must be advocates for them."

Teachers at the House of Reps and at several schools have read the recent *CHALLENGE* article as well as local leaflets about this issue. Students expressed approval of our continuing fight against the "war on gangs" and our taking it to union meetings.

Bratton claims 100,000 LA



youth are in gangs. But as Father Boyle pointed out (LA Times, 12/15), only a tiny percentage of those who even identify with gangs carry out gang violence. Over the years, these gang-bangers have gotten guns and encouragement from the police, doing the cops' dirty work of terrorizing workers and youth and spreading drugs.

Actually homicides and other violent crimes in LA by youth under 18 are "down sharply (LA Times, 12/15). Nationally, there were 60,000 fewer youth homicide, rape, robbery, and assault arrests in 2001 than in 1994....Youths last year account[ed] for just 5% of the nation's homicides and 12% of its violent crimes, the lowest percentage on record....The greatest arrest rates [are] persons in their 30's and 40's," having served long prison sentences with no job training or prospects for a job.

The rulers are squeezing California workers to make up a boss-created \$25 billion budget deficit by cutting health, education and welfare while they plan to invade Iraq (costing \$1 trillion, according to N.Y. Times columnist Thomas Friedman). The Hahn-Bratton war on black and Latino youth is part of this bosses' war on all California workers. As always under capitalism, the bosses shift their crisis and declining profits onto the backs of workers and our children.

PLP is urging all workers and youth to organize against these attacks and the coming war economy cuts. As capitalism's anti-worker, racist, war-like nature intensifies, opportunities grow for a mass communist PLP capable of turning the bosses' crises and wars into a revolution to put the working class in power.✶

Cops Use Latino Youth for Target Practice

Two sixteen year-old students at Manual Arts were among the first targets-or victims-in this war. Salvador Sibrian and Uriel Damien were not gang members. They were high school juniors on their way home from a party with Salvador's older brother Miguel Angel-on his last weekend at home before being sent to kill and die for the rulers of this country in Iraq. When they didn't stop soon enough for the cops, they were shot seventeen times. Miguel Angel was shot in the eye, and is in a coma at LA County Hospital's Jail Ward. Salvador and Uriel are dead.

Racist Murder 'Well Within Chicago Police Guidelines'

CHICAGO, IL- On December 7, three cops murdered 24-year-old Donnell Strickland at the Raymond M. Hilliard housing complex. The cops claim Donnell fired a gun at them, but several witnesses say he was shot as he was kneeling, with his hands up to surrender. Before the body was cold, the police brass ruled that the racist murder was "well within the guidelines of department directives." The

drugs in his possession.

Several residents at Hilliard Homes saw the shooting. "He had his hands up," said a family friend who watched in horror from her apartment. "He was kneeling. But they shot him anyway."

Strickland's sister-in-law said he spent the evening in her apartment, attending a birthday party for his 4-year-old niece, playing with his own 2-month-old baby girl. She said, "He didn't carry any gun. All he had was a cell phone. He didn't deal any drugs. He didn't mess with anybody. He was just kneeling with his arms up, nothing else." Witnesses said police kicked him after he was shot.

Strickland was a cashier in a fast food restaurant and was planning to get married. He also had a 4-year-old son.

Two days later, a march of 100 workers and youth stormed the offices of the *Chicago Defender*, an influential black newspaper. They were outraged that its story didn't mention the many witnesses who said Strickland was shot while attempting to surrender. They only carried the cops' version of the murder, ignoring the residents' side, even though they had to drive right by Hilliard Homes to get to the police station! Allegedly, one *Defender* employee was punched in the eye and protesters who didn't want their pictures taken damaged a photographer's flash.

More racist police terror is one of the many horrors the bosses have in store for black workers as they lurch towards war in Iraq

and a fascist police state at home. The bosses are offering a future of racist unemployment, rotten schools and the destruction of public housing, while sending youth to kill and die in a U.S. bosses' oil war. But these workers reflect the growing anger felt by millions of workers and youth. Increased attacks will lead to sharper class struggle. The bosses can't have it both ways. PLP was involved in this action and will fight to win these anti-racist rebels to march the road to communist revolution.✶

Two days later, a march of 100 workers and youth stormed the offices of the Chicago Defender

shooting has sparked anger among the Hilliard residents.

The following is the cops' story. They claim they were conducting drug surveillance and approached a crowd of people around 10:15 p.m. They say Donnell ran to a nearby playground. When cop Thomas Forst tried to grab him, he broke free and supposedly fired twice, grazing Forst on the side of the head. When Forst's partner ordered him to drop his weapon, he allegedly fired two more shots and the cop fired back. Unbelievably, the cops claim Donnell then staggered several feet and fired twice at a third officer, who shot him, knocking him down. Police spokesman Pat Camden said the cops "fired their weapons while fearing for their lives." Strickland had no

Antiwar Conference

continued from page 5

audience and in written material we distribute. We were only partially effective in this area at the conference and we have much to learn. The other yardstick measures the political and personal nature of our friendships: how we work with our friends in the course of organizing and fighting back, how these friends are developing politically and the nature of their role in the mass organization.

Expanded *CHALLENGE* circulation and the continued recruitment of these new friends into the Party is the ultimate measure of whether we're really doing our job. To build the Party under any circumstances and in the mass way necessary to eventually turn the imperialist war and fascist onslaught into an anti-capitalist revolutionary war, the work that the second yardstick measures is crucial, as the anti-war movement grows. We in the Party are learning a lot and are having some modest success in this area.✶